

March 2025



THE PARTNERSHIP

GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER - VOL. 105 NO. 03



President & CEO's Letter



Dear Members and Friends of the Greater Burlington Partnership

Each year, the Greater Burlington Partnership has the distinct honor of hosting the Annual Chamber Dinner – a night dedicated to celebrating the businesses, organizations, and individuals who make a lasting impact on our community. This year was no exception, as we gathered “under the Big Top,” and took that celebration to new heights – quite literally – with our black-tie evening filled with the magic and wonder of a grand carnival to recognize excellence in leadership, innovation, and service. We invite you to explore the photos and read about the outstanding honorees who made

this unforgettable evening possible!

At the heart of any thriving community are the people who drive progress – those who take risks, invest in their dreams, and work tirelessly to create a better future for all. Our award winners exemplify the best of Greater Burlington, from entrepreneurs shaping new industries to long-standing businesses that continue to set the standard for success. It is our privilege as an organization to shine a spotlight on their contributions.

Recognition matters. Not just for the recipients, but for the entire community. It inspires others to strive for excellence, reinforces the value of hard work and commitment, and strengthens the bonds that connect us all. By acknowledging achievement, we elevate the spirit of our region, fostering an environment where ambition is encouraged and celebrated.

As the Greater Burlington Partnership, we are honored to be the “ringmaster” of this annual tradition. We see firsthand the dedication of our business community, the perseverance of our entrepreneurs, and the heart of our nonprofit leaders. Being able to recognize and honor these contributions is not just a responsibility – it is a privilege.

While awards and recognition are important, the real impact comes from the everyday commitment of businesses, employees, and community members working together. The partnerships forged, the jobs created, and the investments made all contribute to the continued growth and prosperity of Greater Burlington.

To this year’s honorees—congratulations! Your efforts are nothing short of spectacular, and your impact ripples through our entire region. To our business community – thank you for being part of this incredible show. It is because of your passion, persistence, and vision that Greater Burlington continues to be a place of opportunity and prosperity.

The curtain may have closed on this year’s Annual Dinner, but the excitement of what’s ahead continues. The Greater Burlington Partnership is here to support you, advocate for you, and recognize your achievements every step of the way.

Keep reaching for the stars!

President & CEO
Greater Burlington Partnership

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To watch the award videos scan here.

ON THE COVER

Annual Meeting 2024 Award Winners

Annually, the Greater Burlington Partnership has the privilege of honoring numerous individuals, organizations, and businesses at the Annual Dinner. The awards are a tradition of the Chamber of Commerce that began in 1965 with the top honor of the Emmy Award.

1. Emmy Award: Bob Bartles
2. Community Impact of the Year: Art Center of Burlington
3. Project of the Year: Des Moines County Public Health
4. Downtown Distinction: Burlington Black Water, LLC



5. Legacy & Vision: KCPS Radio, Wreaths Across America
6. Business Person of the Year: Eva Castillo
7. Best Renovation to a Facility: Reid's Landscapes, George's Lawnmower, Line Drive

* The Chairman's Award was awarded to Ann Menke. (Not pictured, Ann was unable to attend)

Congratulations again to all award winners. Thank you for helping make this community a great place to live, work and play.



Join the Conversation! Friday Forum March 21, at 8 AM Greater Burlington Partnership in the Winegard Board Room or Virtual

Join us for our March Friday Forum, where local legislators will provide a recap of the legislative session so far and discuss the “Sprint to the End” as we approach the conclusion of this year’s legislative cycle. Each legislator will share updates from their respective committees, followed by a guided Q&A session.

If time allows, the forum may be opened to questions from Chamber members. This is a great opportunity to hear firsthand from those shaping policies and to engage in discussions that directly impact our community. Don’t miss out on the chance to connect with your elected officials and stay informed on the latest legislative developments.

Final Spring 2025 Forum: April 18

All Chamber of Commerce members are invited to join the discussion in person or listen in online.

SOUTHEAST IOWA DAYS BRINGS 115 DELEGATES TO DES MOINES



On February 5 and 6, 115 delegates from Des Moines, Lee, Henry, and Louisa Counties traveled to Des Moines for the 2025 Southeast Iowa Days event. The delegation included Chamber of Commerce leaders, Economic Development professionals, city officials, business owners, MPower U students, and other engaged community leaders. During the Legislative Reception, delegates had the opportunity to speak directly with legislators about key issues impacting Southeast Iowa. In addition, attendees heard from and engaged with several state officials, including:

- *Dustin Miller – Iowa Chamber Alliance*
- *Director Scott Marler – Iowa Department of Transportation*
- *Director Debi Durham – Iowa Economic Development Authority*
- *Lucas Beenken – Iowa State Association of Counties*
- *Dr. Cindy Yelick – Chief Administrator, Heartland AEA*
- *Director Kelly Garcia – Iowa Department of Health & Human Services*
- *Deputy Director Georgia VanGundy – Iowa Workforce Development*
- *Lieutenant Governor Chris Cournoyer*

Members of the Greater Burlington Leadership Class explored the State Capitol, including a tour of the Capitol, and the delegation gathered for a group photo with area legislators. Southeast Iowa Days continues to be a valuable opportunity to connect local leaders with state policymakers, ensuring the voices of our region are heard at the Capitol. If you weren’t able to attend, we hope you will join us next year!



MEET ELI JORDAN

Eli Jordan has recently assumed an internship position with the Greater Burlington Partnership. Eli, born and raised in West Burlington, IA, is currently attending Southeastern Community College with a focus on accounting and business. Through working with us at the Partnership, Eli hopes to kickstart his career by expanding his knowledge and experience, as well as developing relationships within the community. Eli has enjoyed his role so far, he even states, "The Greater Burlington Partnership and its staff truly excel on both a personal and professional level; I couldn't be more excited to learn from them." In his time outside of work, he loves being outdoors, especially playing tennis and sand volleyball. Eli also enjoys spending time with his family and reading. Eli is planning to remain in his internship until he leaves this fall to attend the University of Iowa, where he will major in accounting. He is looking forward to using his talents to assist in data analysis, data entry, and project completion.

NOMINATIONS OPEN

2025 Small Business Awards

Nominations Close March 21



Small businesses are the backbone of our community, driving innovation, creating jobs, and making a lasting impact. Each year during Small Business Month in May, the Small Business Breakfast recognizes the hard work and success of local entrepreneurs.

The Greater Burlington Partnership is proud to present two awards: the Small Business Award (for businesses with 11 - 40 employees) and the Micro Business Award (for businesses with 10 or fewer employees). Business owners and managers are encouraged to nominate their own business by completing a simple nomination form. This is your chance to showcase your achievements and be recognized for the contributions you make to our community!

Submit your nominations now by scanning the QR code or visiting GreaterBurlington.com/nominate.

BUSINESS *after* HOURS

Keystone Home

2880 Mount Pleasant St | March 13, 5 - 7 PM

Join Chamber of Commerce member businesses to build your network at Business After Hours and grow your business!





SPRING EVENTS DOWNTOWN: Spring is in the Air

JEFFERSON STREET FARMERS MARKET - VENDOR APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN! MAY - SEPTEMBER: THURSDAYS 4:30 - 7 PM

It's almost that time of year again! The Jefferson Street Farmers Market is gearing up for another exciting season, and vendor applications are now open! Whether you're a farmer, artisan, or food vendor, this is your chance to be a part of Downtown Burlington's favorite weekly event.



SCAN FOR APPLICATION

The market kicks off May 1 and runs every Thursday from 4:30 PM to 7 PM through September 25. With fresh produce, handmade goods, and delicious treats. It's the perfect place to shop, mingle, and support local.

Interested in being a part of the fun? Apply today to secure your spot and join us for an unforgettable season of community, flavor, and creativity.

Don't wait — apply now and get ready for a great summer in Downtown Burlington!

SAVE THE DATE! JULY 19 A VERY VINTAGE MARKET - 10TH YEAR CELEBRATION!

AVVM is celebrating 10 years of vintage goodness in Downtown Burlington! Join us for A Very Vintage Market on July 19 from 9 AM to 4 PM! It's a one-day-only vintage extravaganza, featuring antique décor, repurposed treasures, handcrafted goods, and delicious local eats! **Vendors, apply now!**



SCAN FOR APPLICATION

This is your chance to be a part of the 10-year celebration! Apply for a booth today and showcase your unique finds in front of a crowd that loves vintage & handmade goods. We can't wait to make this year's market the best one yet – see you there!

2025 OPEN 4 BUSINESS COMPETITION - APPLY NOW!

Calling all for-profit businesses in Downtown Burlington! The Open 4 Business competition is here, and it's your chance to win funding to grow your business!

In partnership with Main Street Iowa and the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Downtown Partners, Inc. is excited to present the 2025 Open 4 Business Competition. If you've been in business since May 1, 2024, and are located or planning to locate in Downtown Burlington, you could be our next winner! In 2024, Thyme & Spice Co. received a \$26,000 award for expanding their olive oils and vinegars selection — will your business be next?

Here's how it works:

- Submit a completed application by April 1, 2025 to enter.
- Downtown Partners, Inc. will select a contestant for the June semifinals.
- The five finalists will present their ideas at the Iowa Downtown Conference in August for a chance to win up to \$20,000 in additional funding!

Applicants will need to submit a three-minute video pitch showcasing their business ideas, so get ready to shine!

Interested in applying or need more information? Reach out to Amy Moyner at 319-752-6365. Don't miss out on this opportunity to boost your business!

COMMERCIAL SPACE OPEN HOUSE EXPLORE DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON'S OPPORTUNITIES!

Are you looking to relocate, expand, or open a business in Downtown Burlington? Don't miss out on the Commercial Space Open House hosted by the DPI Economic Vitality Committee on April 27 from 1 to 3 PM!

This free event is open to the public and provides a unique opportunity to explore available commercial spaces in the heart of Downtown Burlington. Whether you're a first-time entrepreneur or looking to grow your current business, this Open House is your chance to see the spaces, discuss opportunities, and connect with property owners.

During the event, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Tour available commercial spaces
- Learn about business incentives and support activities to help you get started or expand
- Receive a directory map of available locations
- Get the inside scoop on recent and future Downtown projects that will help boost your business

Come and discover all that Downtown Burlington has to offer for your next business venture. With a vibrant community and exciting growth happening in the area, it's the perfect time to make your move.

Mark your calendars for April 27 and join us for this fantastic opportunity to explore Downtown Burlington's potential!

BEADS ON ONE STRING CELEBRATION COMING TO DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON

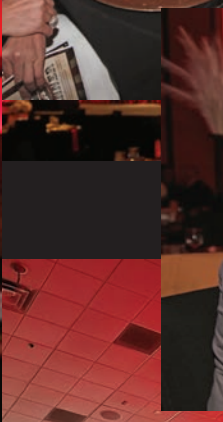
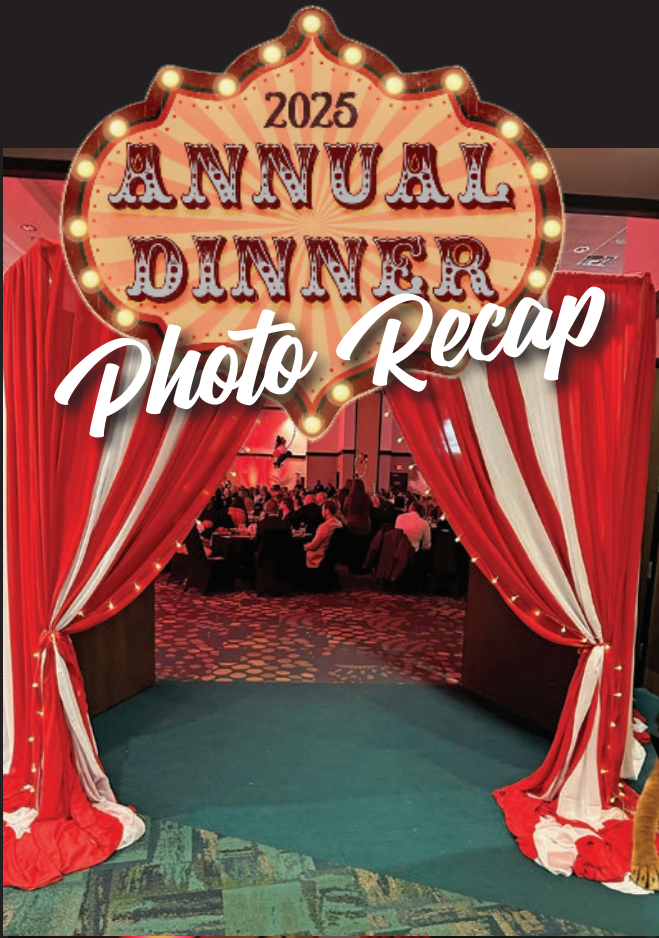
As the Beads on One String celebration takes over Downtown Burlington! On April 17, 2025, singer-songwriter Dennis Warner will share his powerful message of unity and positivity with local elementary students during the day, followed by an evening concert at The Capitol Theater featuring his song, Beads on One String. This collaborative event, hosted by The Capitol, Burlington Public Library, Art Center of Burlington, and Downtown Partners Inc., will highlight themes of diversity, inclusion, and connectedness. Leading up to the concert, the community is invited to participate in unique projects: create personalized beads at the Art Center, share stories through a Human Library Project at the Burlington Public Library, and enjoy an interactive Story Walk downtown, bringing Warner's book *Beads on One String* to life. These activities provide an opportunity for individuals of all ages to celebrate creativity, foster connections, and support local businesses. The event highlights the importance of unity and showcases the vibrant spirit of the Burlington community.

Please participate by making a unique "bead" at the Art Center starting on April 1. Story Walk begins April 5.

For ideas, please contact Amy Moyner or Elizabeth Pappas at the Art Center of Burlington.



**EAT, DRINK +
SHOP LOCAL**







LEADERSHIP 2.0:

February's Leadership 2.0 session focused on Customer Service, diving into Disney's world-renowned best practices. Participants explored the key principles that make Disney's service exceptional: attention to detail, creating magical moments, and exceeding customer expectations. Through engaging discussions, they identified how these principles can be adapted to their own workplaces, ensuring top-notch service in any industry.

The session wasn't just theory – participants took part in scenario-based applications, working through real-life customer interactions to practice delivering exceptional service. They examined strategies for handling difficult situations, building strong customer relationships, and fostering a service-oriented culture.

By the end of the session, attendees walked away with actionable insights to elevate their customer service approach, bringing the magic of Disney's best practices to their own organizations.




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APRIL 26, 9 AM
BURLINGTON AREA YMCA



SMASH FOR A CAUSE

RAISING BANNERS, BUILDING COMMUNITY



GAME ON: REGISTRATION IS HERE FOR SMASH FOR A CAUSE!

The Greater Burlington Leadership class is thrilled to announce that registration is now LIVE for Smash for a Cause: Raising Banners, Building Community! Smash for a Cause's mission is to further community pride and celebrate success through one of the most popular rising sports: pickleball. With the goal of raising \$10,000, banners representing highlights of Burlington and West Burlington will line the light posts in the downtowns of each community.

Smash for a Cause will take place on April 26 at the Burlington YMCA.
Registration begins at 8:30 AM, with the tournament kicking off at 9 AM.

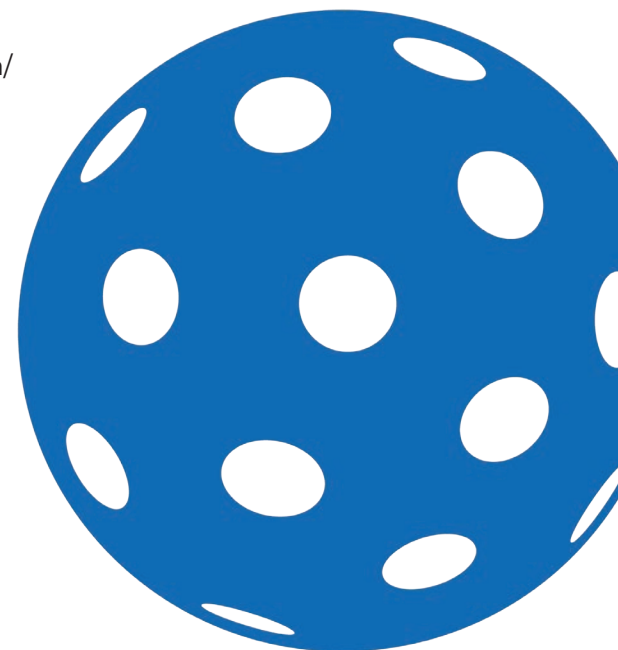
Important Tournament Information:

- Divisions will include beginner (non-competitive), intermediate (competitive), and advanced (competitive). Each division will be considered coed and teams can be made up of any combination of 2 players
- The age minimum is 14+
- Medals will be awarded to the top 3 teams in each competitive division
- FEES: \$25/person + \$5 service fee (\$60/team)

To register and pay fees, please visit pickleballtournaments.com/tournaments/smash-for-a-cause or scan the QR code! Upon team registration completion, you will be redirected to the Greater Burlington Partnership website to complete payment.

Registration deadline is April 21 and will be limited to 12 teams of 2 in each division. Sign up today to ensure your spot on the courts!

Contact Autumn Fjeld at autumnfjeld624@gmail.com
or Robert Berndt at rjberndt305@gmail.com for more details.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new Chamber of Commerce members by sending an email, liking their Facebook page or visiting their website. Even better, stop by to introduce yourself, exchange business cards and help grow their network as well as your own!

Alchemy Skin and Health

1601 N Roosevelt Ave., 319-237-0800, AlchemySkinAndHealth.com

Alchemy offers safe, evidence-based skin and health treatments focused on anti-aging, prevention, and functional medicine. Specializing in advanced aesthetic treatments, including lasers and injectables, all managed by experienced medical professionals. Whether it's wrinkle reduction, tattoo removal, or skin tone improvement, we provide personalized consultations to create effective, minimal-downtime treatment plans. We also offer functional medicine testing and treatments, including hormone and vitamin regimens.

All Four Corners Travel, Inc.

319-535-0505, AllFourCorners.com

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241 Legacy Dr, Chick-fil-a.com

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Fat & Sassy Barbeque

2111 N Roosevelt Ave, 319-671-7070, Fat-Sassy.com

The warm, laid-back atmosphere at Fat & Sassy Barbeque makes it the perfect place to enjoy pork, brisket and all the classic homemade fixings with friends and family. This is Burlington's only veteran and family-owned barbeque joint.

Iowa Memorial Granite

2115 N Roosevelt, 319-206-9393, IowaMemorialGranite.com

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McClure Material, Inc.

3520 Division St, 319-209-2189, McClureMasonry.com

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Vernon Promotions – Jodi Foster

515-341-1609, VernonPromotions.com

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GET READY FOR THE 2025 MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY!

In late March, Chamber of Commerce members will receive the annual Member Satisfaction Survey by email. Your feedback is invaluable in helping understand what's working and where improvements are needed. The survey has been a crucial tool in guiding the future of services and programs, and your voice is important. Your participation is appreciated. Stay tuned and make your opinions count!



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RIBBON CUTTINGS & CELEBRATORY EVENTS



CHICK-FIL-A BURLINGTON, GRAND OPENING



REIGN'S LEGACY DOG GROOMING, REMODEL



TRAILWAYS - NEW SERVICE

CHAMBER AMBASSADORS *Spotlight*



PATRICK LEWIS
HOPE HAVEN,
A DIVISION
OF IMAGINE THE
POSSIBILITIES, INC.

In 2022, Patrick Lewis returned to the Burlington area, bringing a strong commitment to serve and uplift the community. His journey has been marked by compassion, actively supporting children in crisis and helping them navigate challenges. Patrick has also assisted youth in meeting their community service requirements, showing a genuine dedication to their growth. As a top Community Integration Professional at Hope Haven, a Division of the Imagine the Possibilities, Inc., Patrick empowers individuals by facilitating employment opportunities, one person at a time. Through his efforts, he upholds the core values and principles of Hope Haven, ensuring client welfare remains the top priority, while fostering hope and connection within the community.

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FRI - SAT: 7am-1pm

SCAN ME!



MARCH *march* EVENTS

View more events at GreaterBurlington.com/Events

1 - Oscar Nominated Shorts: Documentary
Capitol Theater, 1 PM
BurlingtonCapitolTheater.com

1 - Paint & Sip at The Busted Cup Brewhouse
The Busted Cup Brewhouse, 3 - 5 PM
BustedCup.com

1 - Oscar Nominated Shorts: Animation
Capitol Theater, 7 PM
BurlingtonCapitolTheater.com

1 - Open Mic Comedy Night
Night Cap Listening Lounge, 7 PM
BurlingtonCapitolTheater.com

1 - The Hallelujah Girls
Players Workshop, 7:30 - 9:30 PM
PlayersWorkshopTheater.com

2 - The Hallelujah Girls
Players Workshop, 2 - 4 PM
PlayersWorkshopTheater.com

2 - Spoken Word Live Poetry
La bohème, 5 PM
facebook.com/61552960887564

6 - Downtown Burlington
Mini Golf Challenge
Burlington Black Water Mini Golf
10 AM - 4 PM
GreaterBurlington.com

6 - 8 - Snowbull
Memorial Auditorium, times vary
BurlingtonSnowbull.com

7 - Mardi Gras Ball
Night Cap Listening Lounge, 6 PM
facebook.com/NightCapListeningLounge

7 - SnowBull After Party
Memorial Auditorium, 9 PM
BurlingtonRiverfront.org

8 - Woodland Warrior Challenge Run
Hunt Woods, 8:30 - 11 AM
DesMoinesCounty.iowa.gov

8 - SnowBull Kids' Day
Memorial Auditorium, 10 AM
BurlingtonRiverfront.org

8 - Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Capitol Theater, 7:30 PM
SEISO.us

8 - SnowBull After Party
Memorial Auditorium, 9 PM
BurlingtonRiverfront.org

13 - Business After Hours
Keystone Home, 5 - 7 PM
GreaterBurlington.com

15 - Jonas Magram Jazz Trio
Night Cap Listening Lounge, 7 PM
BurlingtonCapitolTheater.com

20 - Time Travelogue
Capitol Theater, 1:30 PM & 7:30 PM
BurlingtonCapitolTheater.com

21 - Friday Forum
Greater Burlington Partnership 8 AM
GreaterBurlington.com

21 - Pearl
Night Cap Listening Lounge, 7 PM
BurlingtonCapitolTheater.com

22 - The HYPE!
Capitol Theater, 7:30 PM
BurlingtonCapitolTheater.com

26 - Shepherd's Table
First Community Meal
First Congregational Church, 7:30 PM
FCCBurlington.org

28 and 29 - Wonderland:
An Artfully Mad Experience
Art Center of Burlington, 6 PM
BTownArt.com

29 - Impact Pro Wrestling
Memorial Auditorium, 7 PM
BurlingtonRiverfront.org

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2025 OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: DOCUMENTARY

MARCH 1, 1 - 4 PM AND 7 - 9 PM | THE CAPITOL

Be the short-film authority at this year's Oscars party - catch all the nominees at the Capitol!

All the nominees in each category - live action, documentary and animation - will screen together on February 28 & March 1:

Friday: Live Action (5 films; 104 minutes total), 7 PM

Saturday: Documentary (5 films; 165 minutes), 1 PM
Animation (5 films; 90 minutes), 7 PM

Full concessions, including wine and beer, are available at the Capitol.

For more information, follow the Capitol Performing Arts Center on Facebook or visit: LiveAtTheCapitol.com.

THE HALLELUJAH GIRLS

MARCH 1, 7:30 - 9:30 PM AND MARCH 2, 2 - 4 PM
PLAYERS WORKSHOP

If you're ready for some lighthearted hilarity, step in to the "Spa-Dee-Dah" in Eden Falls, Georgia and get yourself an attitude makeover with Players Workshop's production of The Hallelujah Girls.

From the creative crucible of Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten (Jones Hope Wooten), this rollicking Southern comedy is non-stop warmth, wit and wackiness that's guaranteed to lift your spirits and leave you looking at the world with a little less gravity and a little more hope.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students through high school and may be purchased online or at the theater box office prior to each show.

For more information, follow Players Workshop on Facebook, or visit: PlayersWorkshopTheater.com.

SOUTHEAST IOWA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MARCH 8, 7:30 - 9 PM | CAPITOL THEATER

The spring concert of SEISO's 74th season features Antonín Dvorák's joyful and lyrical Eighth Symphony, plus 2024 Young Artist Competition Winner Kaylee Blunier performing Weber's Concertino for Clarinet and the Southeast Iowa Symphony Chorus performing Hagenberg's Illuminare.

Tickets are \$20 for adults; kids & students admitted free. March 8 · 7:30 PM · Capitol Theater, Burlington. March 9 · 2 PM · Bridge View Center, Ottumwa. March 9 · 6:30 PM · Chapel Auditorium, Mt Pleasant.

Adult tickets are \$20; students/kids through college are admitted to this concert FREE. Tickets are available at the door or on the SEISO website.

For more information, visit: SEISO.us.

WONDERLAND: AN ARTFULLY MAD EXPERIENCE

MARCH 28 AND 29, 6 - 9 PM | ART CENTER OF BURLINGTON

Don't be late for this very important date! Enjoy an adventure in an immersive Wonderland with deliciously themed bites, drinks and activities, including: Tea party grazing table, A scavenger hunt, DIY crafts, Collaborative paint-by-number experience... and much more. Costumes are encouraged!

Tickets are \$50 each and include scavenger hunt, curious crafts, whimsical games, fantastical tea party & more. Adults age 21 and over. Two nights: March 28 and 29 from 6 - 9 PM.

Register at Art-Center-of-Burlington.square.site or call or stop in at the Art Center. For more information, follow the Art Center of Burlington on Facebook or visit: BTownArt.com.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Submit member information, to Brenda Levitt at blevitt@greaterburlington.com

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Downtown Spring Open House

Hello, Spring!

**SHOP, SIP, AND
CELEBRATE IN
BURLINGTON!**

SPRING OPEN HOUSE | APRIL 6, 10 AM - 4 PM

Spring is in the air, and Downtown Burlington is ready to kick off the season with a bang! Mark your calendars for April 6, when the Spring Open House rolls into town from 10 AM to 4 PM. This fun-filled day is your chance to check out the latest trends, sample new dishes, and sip on fresh drinks at your favorite downtown eateries and drinkeries.

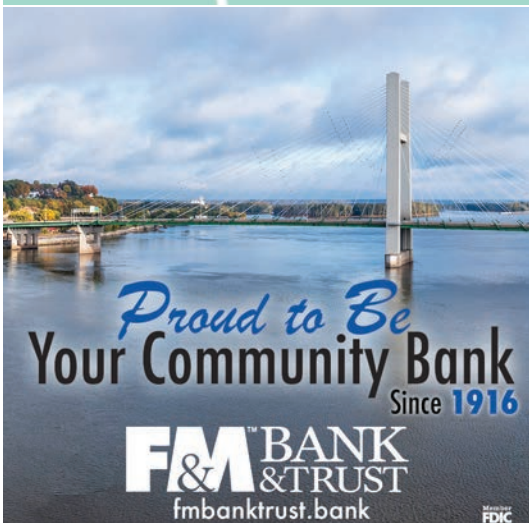
Get ready to try exciting new food and drink menus that will have your taste buds dancing. But that's not all! When you stop by, you'll also have the chance to register for up to \$750 in Downtown Dollars. Imagine all the shopping you can do with that!

Whether you're strolling the streets or shopping 'til you drop, Downtown Burlington is the place to be this spring. The Spring Open House is more than just an event, it's a celebration of everything we love about spring: fresh style, local flavors, and a shopping experience like no other.

Want to see who's joining in on the fun? Head over to the Downtown Burlington Iowa Facebook page to check out participating retailers and their special deals. You won't want to miss the buzz – come see what's blooming in the Downtown!



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